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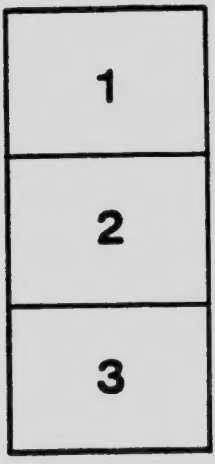

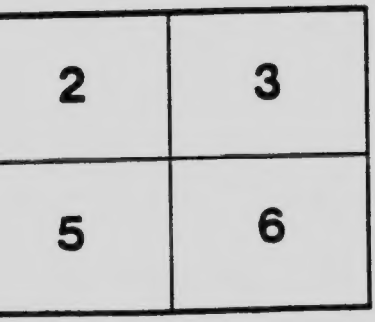

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GENERAL WOLFE

LORD ROBERTS' TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WOLFE

We, members of the British Empire, as it exists today, are better able to understand the work done in the past than those who lived while the work was being carried on, and it is with a full knowledge of what Wolfe's military skill achieved for us, and a correct appreciation of the part he played in our history, that we are assembled here today to do honor to his memory. It always strikes me that in raising a monument to one who has done well for his country we not only do honor to the individual man, but we provide an object lesson of no slight value for ourselves of what our country and our Empire should mean to us. It is well for the people of every nation to ask themselves whether they are doing all in their power, not for their own personal advancement alone, but for the honor and progress of their country; and it is no exaggeration to say that it is of infinitely more importance to us—members of this great Empire—than to the peoples of other nations to put this question to ourselves, for the various countries which form our Empire are so widely scattered that we are apt to lose sight of the vital truth that it is only on the assured welfare and security of the whole that the prosperity of each component part depends. In other words, we cannot now do without the help of our great oversea Dominions any more than the oversea Dominions can do without our help. It is to Wolfe that we are indebted for the greatest

of these Dominions, and you people of Westerham have every reason to be proud of your connection with that great man. Wolfe's letters—many of which are carefully treasured by the descendant of his friend, George Warde, in Squerrys Court—show him to have been a man of marked character and of great determination, a firm friend, and a loving son. A soldier at fourteen, Wolfe never lost an opportunity of perfecting himself in his profession, to the study of which he devoted himself with the whole-hearted zeal which soon brought his great military qualities to notice and caused Pitt to select him, before he was thirty-two years of age, to command the force destined to secure Canada as part of the British Empire. How splendidly Wolfe justified the great statesman's selection is well known. How, after a prolonged and anxious examination of the locality in which Quebec is situated, he formed his daring plan and led his troops to victory is one of the brightest pages in the history of our Empire. Looked at from the purely military point of view, the Quebec campaign is of absorbing interest. It is almost unsurpassed as an example of a combined naval and military operation, though I doubt whether it is generally recognized what a very important part the sailors played and how nobly they played it. The story has often been told, but it never loses its thrilling interest by repetition. The silent drifting down stream on the mighty St. Lawrence of the boats which conveyed the little army. The scaling of the Heights of Abraham in the dark. The impossibility of obtaining the slightest knowledge of the position of

the enemy's troops, or of the nature of the ground where the fighting would have to take place. The rapidly arrived at decision to form up his infantry only two deep in order to save their flanks being turned by the superior numbers of the French showed Wolfe to be a consummate commander. This formation had never before been tried in our army, and could only be justified on such an occasion by the firm belief Wolfe had in the courage and discipline of his troops. It was the same grand feeling of trust in his men—a feeling reciprocated by the men towards their commander—which enabled Wolfe to order his soldiers to remain with their arms shouldered and to reserve their fire until he gave the word. And it was not until the French had approached within forty yards, and Wolfe himself had been severely wounded, that he gave that word. The single volley then fired shattered the enemy's formation and decided the fate of Canada. No wonder that Wolfe, as he lay mortally wounded, was able to murmur: "I die content."—Morning Chronicle, London, Jan. 3, 1911.

A CANADIAN MONUMENT TO GENERAL WOLFE AT GREENWICH

SOME OPINIONS

In view of the universal acceptance of Wolfe's greatness in achievement and grandeur of character, it is astonishing that there is no adequate memorial to him in the old parish church of St. Alphege, in Greenwich, which might remind visitors that the Anglo-Saxon race might never have achieved supremacy in North America but for the genius and self-devotion of the born leader of men.—Canada, Aug. 11, 1906.

In the Valhalla of Canadian worthies Wolfe will occupy a prominent niche, and though tardy, the proposal to erect a memorial to him should meet with support from ocean to ocean.—Vancouver News-Advertiser, July 29, 1906.

"As the devoted worshipper of Islam turns his longing eyes towards Mecca," so the Canadian instinctively contemplates the burial place of Wolfe as being, to use a paradox, the birthplace of Canadian nationhood. The duty of commemorating the great work of this celebrated British general who gave up his life on Canadian soil is one which devolves on every citizen of Canada. —Canadian Scotsman, Winnipeg, July 26, 1906.

The response to the appeal should be instant and liberal.—Winnipeg Telegram, May 6, 1911.

Now that the greatness of the empire that Wolfe captured is beginning to unfold itself, the time is opportune for doing honor to his memory and what way could honor better be done than by erecting a suitable memorial over his resting place.—Portage la Prairie Review, July 19, 1906.

James Wolfe is one of the paladins of Canadian history. . . Is it not time for the erection of a suitable monument over the grave, a tribute from Canadians to the man who established British sovereignty in America on a firm and enduring basis?—Toronto News, May 1, 1911.

It is not to be wondered at that the impetus this movement received here has been freely commented on by Eastern newspapers, coming as it does from the city most remote from the scene of action.—B. C. Saturday Sunset, June 3, 1911.

Yesterday was the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and of the tragic death of Wolfe on the eve of that historic victory so recently celebrated at Quebec. Throughout the Dominion patriotic Canadians and students of history will recall that great event. But what, it has frequently been asked, has Canada done to mark the grave of the hero of Quebec who saved not only this country but this continent to the Anglo-Saxon race?—Vancouver Province, Sept. 14, 1909.

Unquestionably Winnipeg will do its part worthily in this national movement to provide a Canadian monument over the grave of the hero of the battle of the Heights of Abraham, which made Canada British, and was one of the few events of world-wide importance as turning-points in history, ranking as it does with Nelson's famous victory at Trafalgar, in having made the British Empire possible.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The proposition that Canada should thus honor the memory of Wolfe is one that will be warmly approved by all Canadians, and we bespeak a more hearty co-operation of the people of Canada and of Winnipeg in particular, with the movement of which Mr. Wade is the promoter. This would be a very suitable year to carry the project to completion.—Manitoba Free Press, May 2, 1911.

A remarkably generous response has been met with in Vancouver by the appeal for funds for the Wolfe memorial to be erected at Greenwich.—Vancouver World, June 1, 1911.

With much patience, energy and ability Mr. Wade, K.C., of Vancouver, continues to agitate for a fitting Canadian memorial to General Wolfe. It is not to our credit that so little interest in the movement has been developed. The name lies at the roots of our nationality. No other name perhaps has equal significance in the story of this British Commonwealth. Few names shine with greater lustre on the page of Empire. Mr. Wade gives his message with power and

with full knowledge of Wolfe and the meaning of his achievement, and he should get a response from all over the country.—Toronto News, Nov. 11, 1910.

GENERAL WOLFE

The Plains of Abraham stand alone among the world's immortal battlefields as the place where an empire was lost and won in the first clash of arms, the balance of victory was redressed in the second, and the honor of each army was heightened in both.—The Quebec Battlefields: An Appeal, Quebec, April 11, 1908.

At the present moment the only memorial to Wolfe is a small column erected by the rank and file of the British army, quartered in Canada, in 1849. These gallant soldiers sacrificed a day's pay in order that they might do honor to the memory of Wolfe, and in so doing have given an example which I hope will touch the heart of thousands of Britons, not only in Canada, but in every part of the world.—Lord Grey, at Women's Canadian Club, Montreal, Dec. 11, 1908.

Wolfe's proud place in our Imperial annals as the Nelson of the Army certainly entitles him to the distinction of a single statue. Are there not forty erected to his great compeer?—Sir Frederick Young, Sept. 20, 1909.